Alberta Economy

Indicators at a Glance

Economic Activity

The Alberta activity index continued to level off in September. The index remains above last year's levels, up 4.9% year-over-year (y/y). In 2016, Alberta's real GDP by expenditure fell by 3.7%, the largest drop among the provinces for the second year in a row.

Population

Alberta's population was 4,286,134 as of July 1, 2017, an increase of 1.2% from the year prior. Canada's population grew 1.2% from a year ago.

Migration

Net migration to Alberta was 5,486 in the second quarter of 2017. During this time, Alberta welcomed 10,400 net international migrants. However, there was a net outflow of interprovincial migrants (-4,914), the eighth consecutive quarterly decline.

Employment[1]

The economy added 5,400 jobs in November, mostly in the private sector. Employment increased 1.5% y/y, reflecting employment gains in both the goods and services sectors from a year ago.

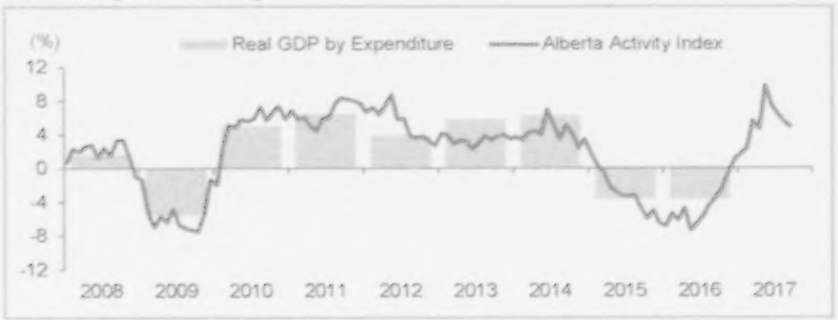
Unemployment Rate[1]

Alberta's unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points to 7.3% in November. Canada's unemployment rate declined 0.4 percentage points to 5.9%.

Rigs Drilling

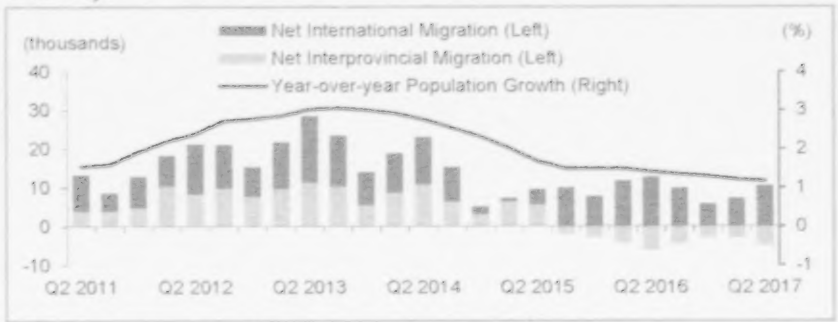
The number of active rigs in Alberta averaged 143 in October, up 32% y/y. Year-to-date, the number of active rigs has averaged 129, up 78% from 2016.

Economic Activity
Year-over-year % change



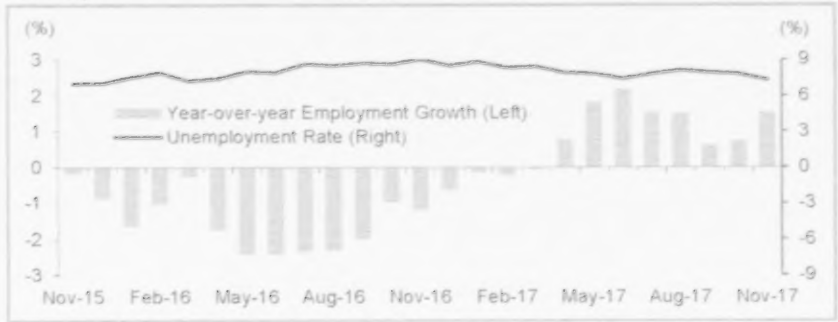
Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

Demographics
Quarterly



Source: Statistics Canada

Labour Market
Monthly



Source: Statistics Canada

Inflation

The Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) held firm at 1.3% y/y in October. Excluding food and energy prices, inflation ticked up 0.2 percentage points to 0.9% y/y. However, the Canadian inflation rate ticked down to 1.4% y/y.

Average Weekly Earnings[1]

Average weekly earnings (AWE) in Alberta grew by 0.8% m/m in September to $1,142. Earnings increased 2.3% y/y as earnings increased in both the goods and service sectors.

Retail Sales[1]

Alberta retail sales grew 0.3% m/m to $6.7 billion in September. Retail sales are up 7.6% y/y, the tenth consecutive month of year-over-year gains.

NEW: Housing Starts[1]

Alberta housing starts increased 16% m/m in November to 33,955 units (annualized). Housing starts were up 35% y/y, as multi-family starts jumped 75% y/y, while single-family starts held steady (-1.1% y/y).

New Housing Price Index

Alberta's New Housing Price Index (NHPI) increased 0.3% y/y in September as the price of land (+0.7% y/y) and the house-only component (+0.1% y/y) were up.

NEW: Building Permits[1]

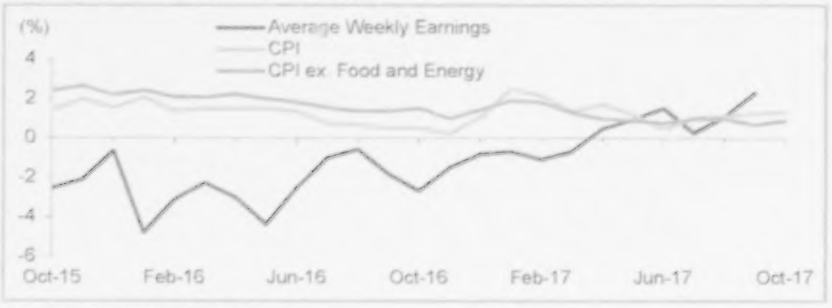
Alberta building permits fell 25% m/m (-51% y/y) in October to $992 million. Both residential (-14% m/m) and non-residential permits (-37% m/m) were down from the previous month.

[1] Seasonally adjusted

Contact

Robert Van Blyderveen 780.638.5628

Inflation and Earnings
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

Retail Sales
Monthly, year-over-year % change

Source: Statistics Canada

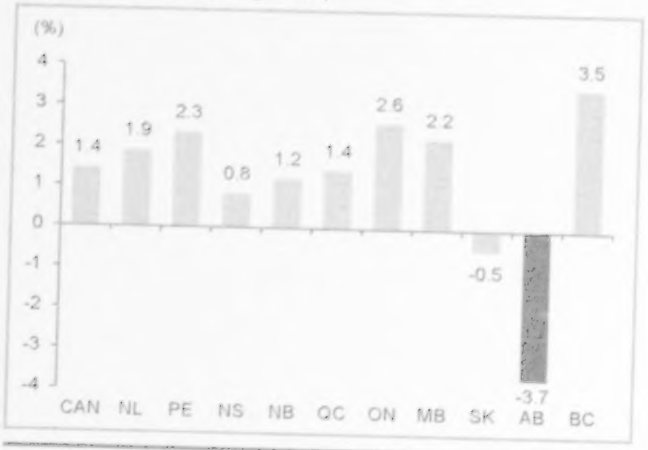
Housing Market
Monthly

Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

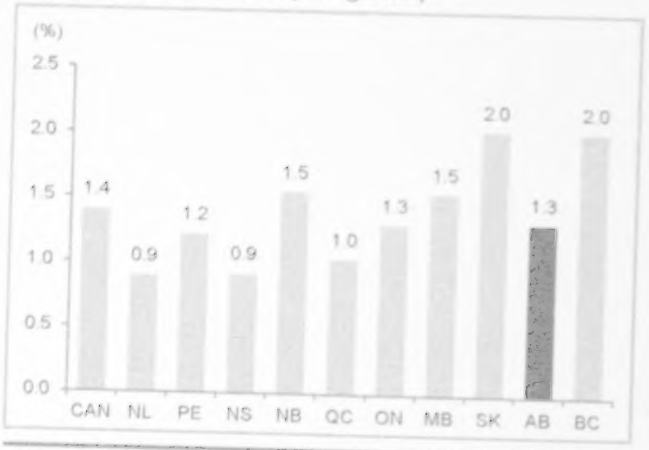
	Canadian Dollar (USc/$CAN)	WTI Oil ($US/bbl)	NYMEX Natural Gas ($US/MMBtu)	Alberta Reference Price ($C/GJ)
Latest (December 7th, 2017)				
Fiscal year-to-date				

Please see the *Weekly Economic Review* for current analysis on the Alberta economy.

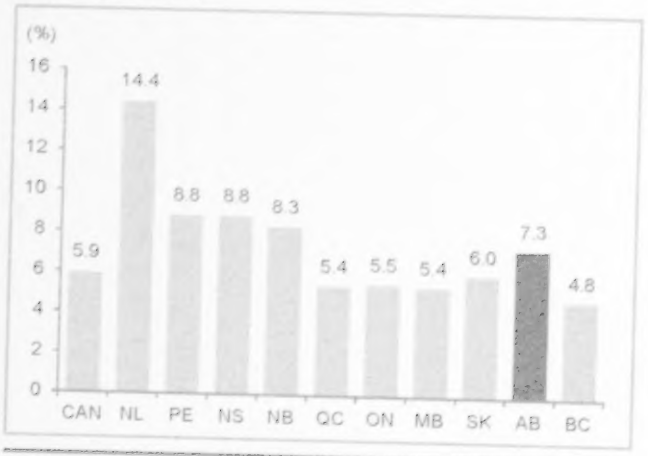
Real GDP by Expenditure
(2016, year-over-year growth)



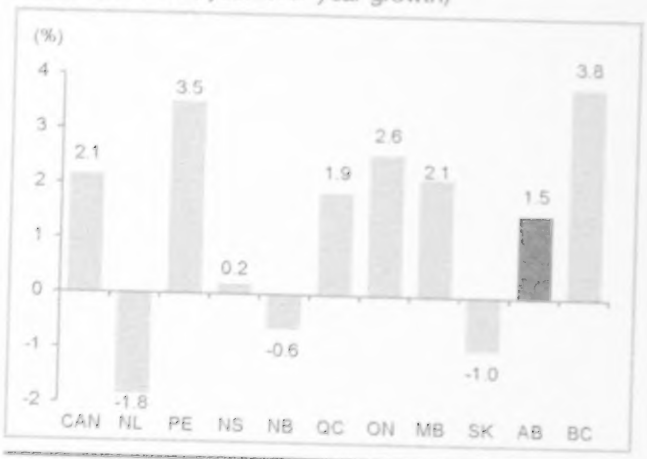
CPI Inflation
(October 2017, year-over-year growth)



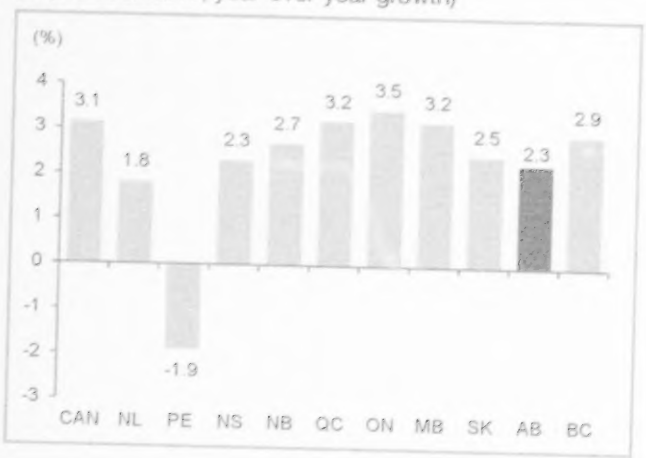
Unemployment Rate
(November 2017)



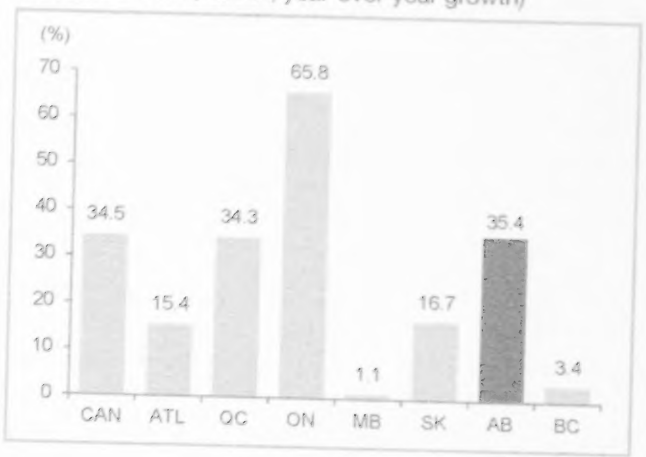
Employment
(November 2017, year-over-year growth)



Average Weekly Earnings
(September 2017, year-over-year growth)



Housing Starts
(November 2017, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



Alberta Economic Indicators

	2015	2016	2017YTD	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17
Population[1]									
Labour Market									
Household Sector									
NEW									
Business Sector									
NEW									
NEW									
NEW									
NEW									
NEW									
NEW									

[1] Population data presented on a census year basis (July 1– June 30). The current census year 2017.

[2] Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

YTD YTD (year-to-date). "SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR" denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate.

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except the Alberta Activity Index (Alberta Treasury Board and Finance), Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).All historical data are subject to revision